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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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CONGO

The murder of 13 Italian UN airmen by mutinous Gizengist troops at Kindu has brought an angry reaction on the part of the UN and could foreshadow hostilities between UN forces and Gizengist units of the Congo Army. On 15 November the UN Secretariat authorized a punitive air strike, but a UN spokesman in Leopoldville indicated the next day that the UN command had dropped this idea and would merely press an investigation into the deaths of the airmen.

Gizenga is believed to be supervising his "invasion" of northern Katanga from somewhere in southern Kivu Province. UN authorities appear to have facilitated the movement of Gizengist troops into Katanga, presumably on the theory that the main enemy was Tshombé. Now, however, it is holding Gizenga responsible for the depredations of his troops, in contrast to its earlier reluctance to take issue with Gizenga's secessionist movement. This reaction will probably be welcomed in Katanga, which because of Tshombé's secession has been the primary target for UN pressure and sanctions.

Gizenga's military push toward northern Katanga--apparently involving about 3,000 troops--began in early November. At the same time the UN, acting on behalf of the central government, sought to fill the political vacuum in northern Katanga and to stimulate pro-Leopoldville sentiment among anti-Tshombé Baluba tribesmen in the area.

Between 9 and 11 November, Baluba elements gained control of Albertville, ostensibly in the name of the central government but, [REDACTED] primarily for purposes of pillage. Although neither the invading Congo Army force nor the Baluba tribesmen showed any strong attachment to Leopold-

ville, they appeared united in their hostility toward Europeans and the Tshombé regime. In Elisabethville, Tshombé appeared undecided whether to defend northern Katanga, an area over which he had never exercised firm control.

Meanwhile, UN representative Khiari, who forced his way into Gizenga's Stanleyville office on 9 November when Gizenga refused to see him, became pessimistic about the prospect that Gizenga might cooperate with Premier Adoula. Gizenga told Khiari that he had no confidence in the UN or any UN representative in the Congo, that they had all been "bought by Tshombé," and that the UN, "in connivance with Tshombé," had made only a weak pretense of invading Katanga.

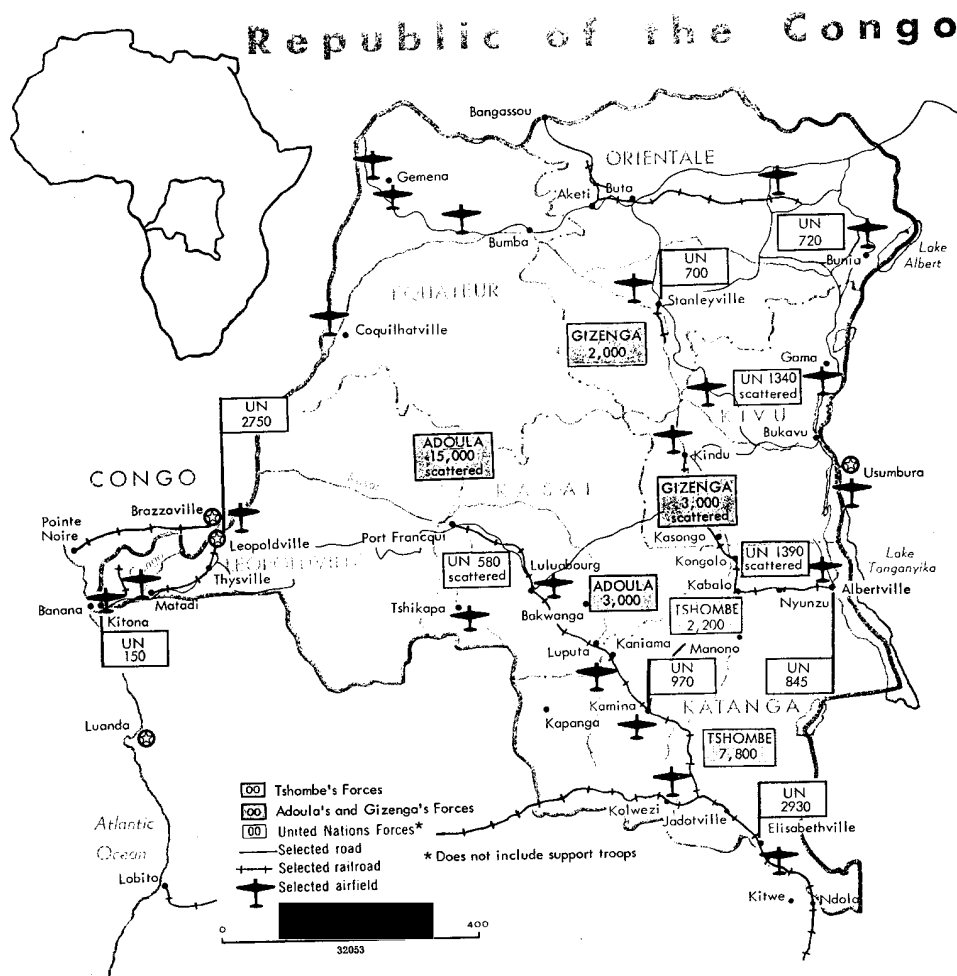
In an attempt to make the invading Congo Army force responsive to Leopoldville, the Adoula government on 12-13 November made its peace with General Lundula, the nominal commander of Congolese forces in Orientale and Kivu provinces. Lundula's consultations in Leopoldville were cut short when, on 13 November, his soldiers in Kindu beat up and subsequently killed the Italian airmen. Lundula's attempt on 14 November to reassert control over his forces at Kindu resulted in a melee from which he fled for his life, although he subsequently returned for another try.

The UN Security Council, currently in session to consider authorizing the UN to take the offensive in bringing Katanga into line, will probably broaden its debate to include authorizing the use of force against the mutinous Gizengist troops. A draft resolution providing for UN use of "requisite measures of force" to get rid of mercenaries has been submitted by Ceylon, Liberia, and the UAR, the three Afro-Asian representatives on the council. Belgian Foreign Minister Spaak objects

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to the draft resolution because it concentrates too narrowly on the Katanga problem and does not refer to the broader UN mission of reconciling opposing factions in the Congo.

The council is likely to endorse the further use of force in the Congo, but any resolution acceptable to all members will probably be so vaguely worded as to require the secretary general to interpret it as he conducts the UN Congo operation.

In Leopoldville, General Mobutu stated in mid-November that he had become reconciled to the disarmament of the entire Congo Army. With reference to the earlier depredations of Congo Army forces in Luluabourg, Mobutu said it might be necessary to organize an entirely new army, starting with new recruits. Mobutu's remarks were probably more indicative of despair than an exposition of a specific program.

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